

“THE BINDING OF SATAN”

Revelation 20:1-3

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INTRODUCTION

Charismatic meetings: “Satan, I/we bind you!

Such activity is not Biblically based, and it is a distortion of what is taught in this passage.

- I. THE SOURCE OF THE BINDING (1)
 - A. An Angel—messenger of God sent forth to minister on behalf of God’s servants
 - B. From Heaven—with divine authority

- II. THE AUTHORITY OF THE BINDING (1)
 - A. Having “the key” of the Abyss
 1. Jesus holds the keys to “death and hell”—1:18
 2. The key to the ‘bottomless pit’ was already used in 9:1
 3. The Abyss would be connected to such a pit and also to hell.
 - B. Having a “great chain” in his hand
 1. He had the authority to bind Satan.
 2. He had the ability to bind Satan.
 3. He also was an angel, but because of divine authority he could bind Satan—a very powerful but fallen angel.

- III. THE ACTIONS OF THE BINDING (2-3)
 - A. He laid hold of the Dragon
 1. See 12:3, 9 where “The dragon” is first introduced in Rev.
 2. His other names
 - “The serpent of old”—Gen. 3:1ff [the clearest identity of the “serpent” of the temptation of Eve and Adam with Satan]
 - The Devil—deceiver
 - Satan—the adversary
 - B. He “bound” him for 1,000 years.
 - Binding restricts Satan; keeps him from carrying out his “normal” activities.
 - This is the **first** scriptural mention of the millennium—the 1,000 yr. period after the 7 year Tribulation Period.
 - This period is mentioned **5 more times** in the succeeding 5 verses—**6 times total**.
 - Some say that the 1,000 years must be symbolical because they are not specifically mentioned elsewhere in the Bible.
 - However, the numbers of Rev. are always to be taken literally unless the context itself indicates that they are intended to be symbolical.
 - C. He cast him into the abyss; not exactly the “place prepared for the devil and his angels” as Jesus said in **Mt. 25:41**; for this place of binding is limited to 1,000 years and is not “eternal.”

- We assume that the other fallen angels are also cast into it with Satan.
 - He and his helpers are thus unable to interact with earth's inhabitants, and unable to interfere with the Lord's activities on earth during the 1,000 years.
- D. He "shut" it—"locked it, barred it", thus preventing:
- Escape
 - Access of others to visit and assist him.
- E. He "sealed it."
- Indicates God's authority on the shutting up.
 - Guarantees the "safety" of those bound—i.e. safely bound so as to be able to cause no issues on Earth.
 - THE dragon is unable "to deceive the nations [the people living in them] any longer.
 - The "deception" begun in the Garden (Gen. 3) ceases for 1,000 years.
 - Shows that no one else except He whose seal is on the entrance of the abyss is able to access it or release its "contents." God's ownership of those within.
- F. The angel, with the same divine authority, will "release" Satan "after the 1,000 years were completed"
- During that time God accomplishes His purpose on Earth without Satanic opposition.
 - But after that period, Satan must be released for a short time.
 - **The compulsion is not due to Satan's demand; nor to his deserving.**
 - The compulsion is due to the divine program, plan and will.
 - More details are given in vv. 7-10.

CONCLUSION

The amillennial view holding that Satan is bound in the present age stretches credibility beyond any reasonable limits. If Satan is now bound, what would his release look like?

It is obvious that Satan is currently "deceiving the nations on a regular basis.

But, the time will come that Christ puts a stop to it—after the Second Advent mentioned in chapter 19.